

Sermon-Based Group Guide

March 24, 2023

Ben Goodman

VISION

Imagine a group of people in an authentic community, loving each other honestly, covering each other's sins with forgiveness, prayer, confession, and encouragement, serving and supporting each other genuinely. When we dream of a small group of people dwelling together in unity, we begin to see the supernatural work of God within our relationships. Thank you for facilitating life change by hosting or leading a sermon-based small group, our prayer as your pastors is that you would experience God's grace by building a life-giving culture.

1. Connect

This is a time to personally connect, introduce yourself and share a bit about who you are. Each week you are together, go a little deeper and more personal. This is a time to catch up from the last time you met and ask about their family, relationships, work, hobbies, and anything they spend time on. This helps our hearts connect so that they can be formed later through the Word and the Presence of God. Everyone wants to belong somewhere.

2. Worship

You can take some time and play a few worship songs on a speaker or TV that would facilitate focus on God. Take some time to thank God for who He is; before asking or seeking, just be grateful, and tell your soul that it's time to bless the Lord. (Psalm 103: 1) If you don't have any music, you can turn into worship, use one of the Psalms, and read prayerfully through that. You can pray with an attitude of thanking God for His nature. Psalm 145, 146, 40, 8, 65, 98, and 150.

3. Summarize

Take turns summarizing the message in your own words, and allow everyone to participate in translating the message. This is not a personal application yet, only taking turns summarizing the news and building it in its entirety. Make sure you, as a small group leader, are filling in any gaps; the main point, scripture, and the end of the message.

4. Personal

This section will allow you to go deeper and be sensitive to God's activity in people's lives. Ask questions and facilitate conversation about the message this past weekend.

- What did you get out of the message, and why?
- Go over the primary scriptures from the message.
- How will this influence your soul (mind, will, heart, and emotions), your work, and your life?
- What is God asking you to be or do based on the message?

Summary for Groups

Truth is SO important. It is so important that significant portions of scripture are devoted to warning us to be aware of attempts to deceive us, to distract us from the Truth. Indeed, Jesus Himself commands His disciples to 'See to it that no one deceives you, misleads you, leads you astray'. Ben Goodman's message lays out a number of the major obstacles to knowing and walking in Truth. Our awareness of these obstacles can help keep us from being deceived.



Scriptures

Matthew 24:4

Hosea 4:6

John 8:31-32

James 1:22

Proverbs 19:2

Jeremiah 17:9

Hebrews 3:13

Matthew 7:6

Mark 7:9; 13

Romans 12:2

Colossians 2:8

Matthew 16:23

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Church Life

Here is a bit about the church life we want you to know about.

March 28 & 31: Easter at Grace
for service times visit:
gracechurchsp.org/easter2024

Discussion Questions

1. Which of the obstacles to Truth do you see most prevalent in your culture?
2. Which of the obstacles to Truth do you see as influencing your own walk with Jesus?
3. What practical steps would you recommend to someone who is committed to embracing Truth and minimizing deception in their lives?

5. Application

Take this time to ask what everyone will do with what they heard from the message.

What will you do with what you heard?

What is God asking you to be, and/or do, with what you heard?

6. Pray

Pray. Take some time to pray with and for each other.

